in the Economic Times dated 10th July, 2002 highlighting that poor utilization of resources was a larger growth deterrent in the recent years than their availability;

(b) if so, Government's reaction thereto; and

(c) what are the fresh steps initiated to fine tune the monitoring mechanism for better management and fuller utilization of the scarce available resources?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Mid-Term Appraisal of the Ninth Five Year Plan had indicated that there had been shortfall in public savings and public investment.

(c) The Planning Commission is holding Quarterly Performance Review Meetings with the implementing Ministries/Departments and states to monitor utilization of plan resources and to decide on corrective measures.

Rental on (WLL) VPT

†*276. SHRI BALKAVI BAIRAGI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the provisions relating to the rental and slabs of per call charges to be recovered for the connection of VPT (WLL) and (WLL) NCT provided to the Gram Sabhas;

(b) whether it is a fact that there is a provision for not providing STD facility on demand on Public Telephone and VPT in Gram Sabhas;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the justification for not providing such facility by the officers in Mainpuri?

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN): (a) to (d) No rent is charged on VPTs (normal & WLL). The call charges for local VPT is Rs. 0.50 per unit call and STD/ISD VPT is Rs. 1.20 per unit call. In respect of normal connection on WLL, rates for rural area are applicable. A comparative statement of rental and call charges for VPTs and normal telephones in rural areas is given in the statement. (*See* below)

There is no organisational restriction for providing STD facility on demand on public telephones & VPTs. As per provision, STD facility is to be provided on all existing VPTs and new VPTs are to be opened with STD facility only (subject to technical feasibility and demand from custodian of the VPT).

All the VPTs in Mainpuri SSA installed in the first quarter of 2002-2003 have been provided with STD facility. Further, no demand for providing STD facility on existing VPTs is pending in Mainpuri SSA.

Statement

Comparision of Tariff for VPT with other Telephones in Rural Area

Particulars	VPT (Normal/WLL) Local	VPT (Normal/WLL) with STD/ISD	WLL (Fixed) Rural Telepone
		Rental	
Monthly Rental (Rs.)	Nil	Nil	As applicable for ordinary Telephone*
		Call Charges	
Number of Calls	Rs. per unit call	Rs. per Unit Call	Rs. per unit call
1-125	0.5	1.2	Nil
126-225	0.5	1.2	0.6
226-250	0.5	1.2	0.8
251-500	0.5	1.2	1
>500	0.5	1.2	1.2

Note: 1. Apart from above, service charge @ Rs. 2/- per call is chargeable in respect of STD calls from STD VPT.

2. The service tax is chargeable @ 5% of the total call value for calls made from STD VPT and on total bill amount is case of normal telephone.

*3. The slab wise monthly rental for normal WLL (Fixed) telephone in rural is as below:

Exchange System	Amount
Less than 1000 Lines	Rs. 50
1000-below 30,000 lines	Rs. 110
30,000-below 1 lakh	Rs. 150
1 lakh and above	Rs. 210

Revival of Retrenchment proposal

*277. SHRI P. PRABHAKAR REDDY: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned 'Government revives retrenchment proposal, to amend IDA' published in the 'Business Standard' dated the 8th July, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) by when the proposed amendment to Industrial Disputes Act is likely to be put in place?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI SAHIB SINGH VERMA): (a) to (c) Attention of the Government has been drawn to the news-item which was published in the Business Standard dated 06.07.2002. The news-item, in brief, states that the Cabinet had earlier approved in principle allowing units employing less than 1000 workers to rationalise their workforce without having to take prior permission from the appropriate Government and that the Ministry had decided to exempt units employing less than 300 workers from the requirement of getting permission from the Government for rationalising the workforce. The news-item also refers to the Report of the Second National Commission on Labour.